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PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
: KEN-ICHI OHTA )  
: Application No.: 09/557,912 )  
: Filed: April 21, 2000 )  
: For: COLOR-IMAGE PROCESSING )  
: APPARATUS AND METHOD, )  
: AND STORAGE MEDIUM )

Examiner: Y. Kassa

Group Art Unit: 2625

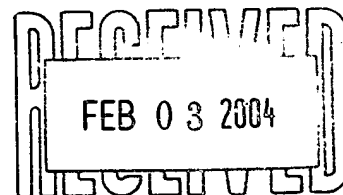
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FEB 03 2004

Technology Center 2600

January 29, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE  
JANUARY 27, 2004 TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

Sir:

A telephone interview was conducted on January 27, 2004 in the above-identified application, between the Examiner and an attorney for the Applicant (Fritz Klantschi, Reg. No. 50,333). This Statement includes the substance of the interview and should be considered as a separate record of the substance of the interview.

During the interview, Applicant's attorney discussed the Office Action dated January 14, 2004, and the prior art, Sonoda et al. Applicant's attorney distinguished Sonoda et al. from the claims as follows.

The Sonoda et al. system comprises three pattern detection devices. Pattern detection device 1 specifies rough reference locations that may contain a characteristic pattern to be compared. This information, RGB data, is stored in first detailed memory 20

(column 12, lines 31-35). Coordinate values for valid hit points of the information stored in first detailed memory 20 is stored in memory 21 (column 12, lines 42 and 43). Based on the coordinates read out of memory 21, corresponding image data stored in first detailed memory 20 is sent to binary unit 22 for conversion into binary data rendering the interior of the pattern entirely dark. Pattern extraction device 2 extracts more accurate hit points and the image data is then stored in second detailed memory 24. The data stored in second detailed memory 24 is compared by pattern matching device 3 using fuzzy knowledge which includes rules for the characteristic pattern (i.e., the reference pattern) which are stored in memory 36a and the membership functions for the pattern which are stored in memory 37a.

Applicant's attorney noted the Office Action at page 2 equated the data stored in first detailed memory 20 with the color image data of the claimed invention. Further, at page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner appeared then to equate the data stored in memories 36a and 37a with the color image data of the claimed invention, and at the same time stating that the processing of the pattern matching device 3 (column 14, lines 14-27) equates to the determination process of the claimed invention. Applicant's attorney noted that pattern matching device 3 of Sonoda et al. actually uses the data stored in second detailed memory 24, the binary data, for comparison with the characteristic pattern, and that the data in memories 36a and 37a, which corresponds to the characteristic pattern (reference pattern), would actually equate to a pattern of a specific image of the claimed invention and not the color image data of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Sonoda et

al. actually uses binary data, darkened or black and white data, not color image data, in the final pattern matching.

Further, it was discussed that the Office Action appears to equate the claimed phrase "at a predetermined time" with "previously established" in Sonoda et al. Applicant's attorney cited pages 7 and 8 of the specification as defining what is meant by "at a predetermined time" which is different from "previously established".

It is understood that, based on the comments presented by Applicant's attorney, the Examiner will withdraw the outstanding Office Action. If no paper vacating the above-mentioned Office Action issues prior to the expiration of the three (3) month statutory period for reply, this Statement is to be considered a complete response to that Office Action.

Applicant respectfully submits that both this Statement is a complete record of the substance of the telephone interview conducted on January 27, 2004.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Attorney for Applicant

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